

# superfund cleanup



(Photo by Bob Bruce)

Chemical Insecticide Corp. in Edison are, from left, Pat Evangelista, EPA project manager; Bob Callahan, a division director with the EPA

streams within walking distance of an apartment complex."

He was referring to pollution that has migrated from the old insecticide site into streams near apartments in the township.

EPA officials yesterday said the agency is seeking a contractor to remove contamination from the stream and that phase of the cleanup effort is expected to take 12 to 18 months to complete. A temporary cap has been placed on top of the insecticide site until removal of polluted soil begins.

"We need to put something in the law to stress the need for off-site remediation," Pallone said.

Community groups, the congressman said, should be permitted more input and provided grants to develop solutions for problems in their municipalities.

Along with the two polluted Edison sites, Pallone and EPA officials yesterday toured the contaminated Piscataway site of the former Chemsol Inc., which operated a solvent recovery and waste reprocessing facility in the 1950s and 1960s.

## Chemical firm gains toxic storage ally in Old Bridge commission

By TOM HAYDON

A much-criticized Old Bridge chemical company has gained a surprising but reluctant supporter in its bid for a state permit to handle hazardous waste.

The Old Bridge Environmental Commission is arguing that issuance of a permit to CPS Chemical Co. for storage of hazardous waste would lead to increased state oversight of the company.

"It is with great trepidation that we take this position," commission members said in a letter to the state Department of Environmental Protection (DEP).

"In principal, the commission feels strongly that the application should be rejected based on the company's history," states the letter, signed by commission chairwoman Blanche Hoffman and vice chairwoman Susan E. Knauf.

CPS and a neighboring company, Madison Industries, were responsible for polluting the Runyon watershed, which resulted in the contamination of dozens of water wells operated by Perth Amboy, the owner of the property.

Old Bridge Mayor Barbara Cannon and Perth Amboy Mayor Joseph Vas have vehemently opposed the application.

DEP officials have stressed that CPS has been storing hazardous waste on its property under a permit issued in the 1980s. However, updated regulations require that the company obtain another permit for storage of hazardous waste on the property for more than 90 days.

If the company is denied the permit, it could still store the waste for up to 90 days, under the regulations.

By granting the permit, the DEP could more closely monitor the company's activities, state officials contend.

"The success of the oversight that should translate into a greater protection of human health and environment will be left to the DEP as the authorized agency," Hoffman and Knauf said in the letter.

"We are therefore asking, if not insisting, that should the application be approved, that compliance and opera-

tional audits for this facility be conducted as frequently as permitted by (the regulations) and that the result of these inspections and audits be sent to the township," they said.

"In addition, we are looking for the DEP to issue notice of violations,

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should they occur, and follow up to the fullest extent of the law."

Cannon yesterday said that, while she understands the commission's position, "It flies in the face of reason" to issue this company a permit, based "on its track record."

She said the permit would provide the company with financial gain and would encourage an expansion of its operation.

Cannon said the DEP could develop the necessary regulations to provide the same stringent oversight without issuance of the permit.

CPS officials have said they have no plans to expand.

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